

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

October 1, 2002

**With All the Organizations Opposing H.R. 5469, Who Supports It?  
Vote "NO" on H.R. 5469**

The AFL-CIO opposes H.R. 5469. The Recording Artist Coalition (RAC) opposes it. The American Federation of Musicians (AFM) opposes it. The American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA) opposes it. The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) opposes it. Why?

These groups oppose H.R. 5469 because they represent musicians, recording artists, and background singers. **H.R. 5469 forces their members to give big Internet radio companies an interest-free loan, and delays for at least six months their ability to collect money they have been owed for four years.**

The AFL-CIO wrote, "We urge you to vote against H.R. 5469 and against any further delay in the payment of fair royalties for musicians."

The RAC writes, "RAC strongly urges you to vote 'no' on this bill. Non-payment would only harm the artists, and would represent a clear windfall to webcasters."

AFTRA writes, "Artists must finally receive payment for use of their works, rather than being forced to continue to subsidize these businesses."

Internet radio companies have known they would have to pay royalties since 1998. As the AFL-CIO notes, "Since then, they have continued to use performers' music for free while awaiting the royalty rate to be set. Performers, meanwhile, have received nothing for the free use of their creative works."

Knowing they had to pay royalties in October 2002, responsible Internet radio companies should have set royalty money aside over the past four years. And if they have put money aside, they should fork it over to musicians now. If they haven't put any money aside, did they ever really intend to pay musicians?

**Congress shouldn't force musicians to give Internet radio companies another interest-free loan for six months. The AFL-CIO, RAC, AFTRA, AFM, and NARAS all tell us it isn't fair.** Who argues that it is?

Sincerely,

HOWARD L. BERMAN  
Ranking Member,  
Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts,  
the Internet, and Intellectual Property

JOHN CONYERS  
Ranking Member  
Judiciary Committee

KAREN MCCARTHY  
Member of Congress